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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 9 12 17 PM '99

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Doc 99-25

April 3, 1999

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

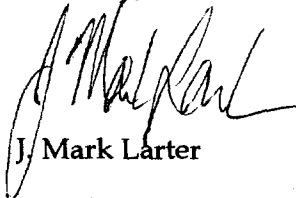
I am writing to request your strong support of the proposed new Low Power FM (LPFM) radio service.

Locally owned stations and locally guided programming have been disappearing since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Large corporations own our radio stations now, and it seems that in every city the musical tastes, businesses advertising, and issues are now identical. But we listening Americans know this is not true, and this lack of truth is very threatening to the freedom of speech so important to a healthy free society. The national radio media does not serve or represent its local listening constituency.

Help create a new class of radio station that will counter this monopoly of the airwaves. LPFM stations will bring localism back to the radio. We are a country of diverse and vibrant communities. We need community radio that provides a more open forum for the needs and opinions of its listenership, supports the cultural uniqueness of each area, and enables access for citizen participation and the proliferation of local voices.

Please know that the American people want and need Low Power FM radio service. Thank you for your interest and assistance. .

Sincerely,



J. Mark Larter

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Doc-99-25

March 29, 1999

Susan Ness
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554

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SUSAN NESS
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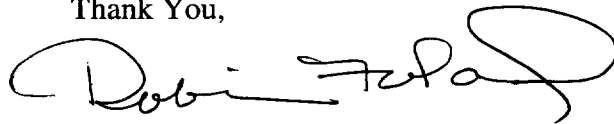
Dear Susan Ness,

I am writing this letter in order to express the importance of Denver's low-powered radio. Low-powered radio stations are a great benefit to Denver radio. Not only does it add diversity to our choice of radio stations, but it also creates a sense of community. Low-powered radio helps to create a community-based atmosphere because the station addresses issues and views significant to the cultural and traditional wellbeing of the area. This type of radio also makes advertising available for small, family owned businesses. The advertising and news bulletins make it possible to target specific neighborhood events and activities, which are often overlooked by the general public.

Not only does low-powered radio benefit small businesses and communities; it also helps to add diversity to the monotonous routine of high-powered radio stations. Low-powered radio allows those who would not ordinarily get their voices heard have a chance for self-expression. Thus, it provides a forum for diverse voices and opinions.

Low-powered radio greatly benefits our community and allows us to be connected with people and events that are close to home.

Thank You,



Robin Foland

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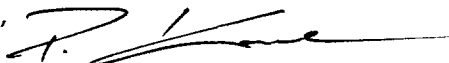
Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Doc-99-25 Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

It has come to my attention that the FCC is proposing licensing low power community FM stations and I am writing in support of this proposition. I think it is the right time to be focusing on our local communities and empowering them to come together and shape their futures. Providing a medium for which to do this only makes sense. I hope the FCC will seriously consider legalizing what would in effect become community radio.

I am sincerely,
Paul Kane



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March 25, 1999

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed new Low Power FM (LPFM) Service.

I have lived in Denver for the past 36 years. An independently-owned radio station, KTCL, was my favorite radio station, and a very important part of my radio enjoyment. I loved it because I could listen to the station all day and rarely hear the same song twice. Also, once a week, they had a show exclusively devoted to local bands, where I could listen to local talent and decide whether or not to go see their upcoming shows. Because they were independently-owned, they had the flexibility to provide all kinds of interesting programs.

Following the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, when KTCL was bought out by a large corporation, JACOR, everything at KTCL changed. A lot of the longtime DJ's were fired and replaced by out-of-town "radio personalities." Also, they started sticking to an obvious play list format, and thus started playing the same top songs over and over and over.

This same scenario has happened to other long-time Denver locally and independently owned radio stations. It has gotten to the point where I no longer listen to the radio at all. It seems now that the large national media corporations have a near monopoly on the airwaves. The listener has no real choice because of the lack of variety and original programming.

For these reasons, please support the creation of the Low Power class of radio station. Please let the Telecommunications Sub-Committee members know that the American people are very eager to see this LPFM Service approved, and once again have a voice on the radio in their communities.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Michelle Prestien
Michelle A. Prestien

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Federal Communications Commission
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Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commissioner
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554

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SUSAN NESS

APR 9 12 25 PM '99

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Doc 99-25

Dear Commissioner Susan Ness,

This letter is intended to express my strong support of the proposed legislation that would create **licensing for low-power FM radio**. The situation created thereby would be one of empowerment to the constitution: a forum for diverse voices and opinions will be enhanced. My support also includes the provision for low-cost advertising opportunities for local, small businesses, a provision that would be met by the licensing of low-power radio. Our city warmly welcomes a small alteration in state laws that would provide easier access for community participation and the proliferation of local voices.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dukes



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April 5, 1999

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you to voice my support of the proposed new Low Power FM (LPFM) Service.

I think this is an excellent and timely idea. Low power radio by nature, lends itself to use as a format specific to local needs. This type of radio station could cater to local taste in music, and provide a perfect format for addressing local issues like road closures and grassroots political issues.

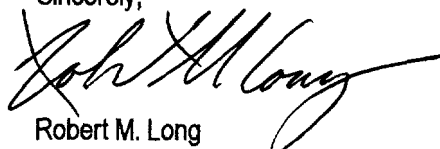
Currently the markets are flooded with formula radio stations, which, although they do provide a useful service, they by their nature, cannot or are not willing to address the specific cultural, socio-economic, political, and/or ethnic make-up of a small precise area.

Like community access television which exists for much the same reason, to provide a counterpoint to national television broadcasting, LPFM would likewise provide a format for the specific concerns of these smaller market segments which are so often overlooked by mass appeal programming.

I urge you to continue to work to make Low Power FM a reality. Please know that the American people are eager to once again have a real voice in their communities.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Long

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January 20, 1999

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and supporter of micro-powered radio. It is my understanding that your agency is considering making rule changes that could re-legalize FM micro-radio broadcasting in some form. I believe that these rule changes are an important step that the Commission can take towards addressing the serious inequities in ownership and access that have long been the norm in American broadcast media.

I wish to express my support for the creation of a legal low-powered FM service that incorporates the following elements:

- 1) Non-commercial format
- 2) Local ownership
- 3) Fast, fair and efficient licensing
- 4) Self-regulation by the micro-radio community in terms of frequency allotment and content

Furthermore, I would like to encourage your Commission to drop its legal proceedings against the civil disobedience movement that has put this issue on the table. I believe that amnesty for the activists in the existing micro-radio community and the creation of a new LPFM service that meets the above criteria will be effective and appropriate gestures towards the creation of a diverse, accessible radio medium--an issue which I understand you are personally concerned with.

Sincerely,

102 NW 15th St. #4
Gainesville, FL 32603

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Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Dimitris Rentzios ^{Office of Secretary}
1834 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80220

Doc-99-25

April 2, 1999

I am writing to you regarding the Free Airwaves Campaign to help support low-power radio stations. The FCC is currently reviewing the possibility of adding a new class of low-powered radio stations. The purpose of these radio stations is to create a community of local radio stations. A few corporations with strong lobbying power are increasingly monopolizing today's radio stations. The technology has improved so that local low-powered radio stations can be placed on the radio band without interfering with other stations. The following are just a few of the possibilities that can be achieved by local radio stations:

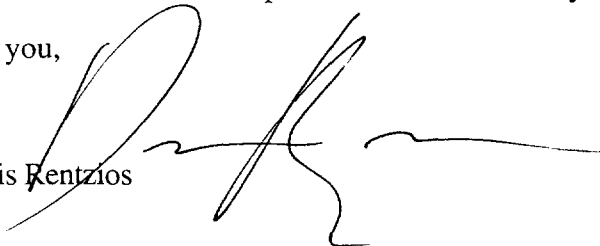
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- Create easy access for community participation and the proliferation of local voice
- Broaden arena of political, social, and entertainment programming
- Target specific neighborhood events and activities
- Address unmet needs for community oriented radio broadcasting
- Provide a forum of diverse voices and opinions
- Provide low cost advertising opportunities for local small business
- Create new broadcast ownership opportunities
- Address issues and views significant to the well-being of the community

I appreciate the time you take to read this letter and I sincerely encourage you to help in any way you can. This is an important issue that needs your support.

Thank you,

Dimitris Rentzios



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Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
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April 2, 1999

I feel that it is very important to localize Denver radio. A new class of low-power radio stations would help people that previously didn't have the chance to voice their thoughts and ideas to bring their ideas to the local community.

As a college student I would like to hear what other college students have to say about the issues facing us today. This would make radio available to students and people that don't have the money to fund a corporate radio station, but still have very innovative and important thought to convey to the community. I would love to see a radio station brought to the Auraria campus, and by changing the current regulations this would be very possible.

Sincerely,

Sarah Peterson

Sarah Peterson

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Doc. 99-25

April 5, 1999

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to inform you of my support of proposed new class of radio station, the Low Power FM radio service.

I am behind this effort for many reasons, a few of which I will indicate here. Basically, after the passage of The Telecommunications Act of 1996, most of Denver's small, independently-owned radio stations were bought out by large national broadcasting corporations.

There are now more actual radio stations, but fewer distinct owners. In Denver, for example, the same company owns at least 6 radio stations. This has greatly reduced the diversity of music, news, and viewpoints. These new LPFM stations would provide a much-needed forum for currently ignored segments of the community.

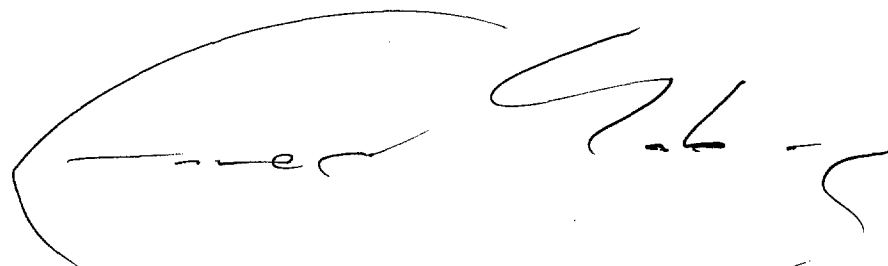
Further, with less competition and more consolidation, radio ownership has become extremely expensive and is out of reach for anyone but large corporations. Low-power FM would create new ownership opportunities for smaller, non-corporate, local entities, that could introduce all kinds of interesting non-formulaic programming.

For these, and other positive outcomes, I urge you to do what you can to approve this LPFM service. Please know that many people in Denver are eager to once again have a real voice in their communities.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

James Mabry



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April 5, 1999

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW

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Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I am writing to you to voice my support of and request your support of the FCC's current proposed new Low Power FM (LPFM) Service. I feel that the creation of this new class of radio station would be beneficial to communities across the country and specifically in Denver for several reasons.

First, since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, when ownership restrictions were eased, there has been a growing trend in many markets of a few very large national media conglomerates purchasing numerous radio stations in the same market. In fact, in Denver, one such corporation owns eight different radio stations. This situation now is much like a monopoly. These few conglomerates have very homogeneous formats, reducing the consumers' choices, and they charge a very high price for advertising time.

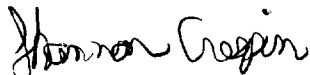
I believe the commissioner of the FCC recognizes this negative state of affairs in the radio industry and is therefore considering authorizing these LPFM stations as a way to break the stranglehold that the large companies have on the airwaves and foster competition in this sector.

Further, these LPFM stations would create entrepreneurial opportunities for local people to start a broadcasting entity, which in turn would provide a lower cost radio advertising alternative, enabling local small independent business a chance to advertise where before they couldn't afford it. This would be very good for the economy in many ways.

Finally, low-power stations would address unmet needs for community appropriate programming and advertising. In the process, they would restore variety and innovation to radio.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the creation of the low-power class of radio station. Please let the Telecommunications Sub-Committee members know that people in Denver are very eager to see this LPFM Service approved, and once again have a voice on the radio in their communities. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Shannon Crespin

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To Secretary
MM 99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 29, 1999

Beth Williams
6848 26th Avenue NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

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SUSAN NESS
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Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

I encourage you to support the legalization and licensing of micro radio stations (low power radio stations of under 100 watts), to NOT auction off the licenses to the highest bidder, and to require micro station owners to live in the communities to which the micro radio station broadcasts.

Auctioning off the licenses would put the licenses out of the financial reach of the local, low budget but good cause type of groups that I would like to see be able to use the "public airways." Auctioning off the licenses puts a one-time infusion of money over public interest. I encourage you to value the service that can be provided by low power radio broadcasting more than the large licensing fees that large broadcasters can afford but community-based groups cannot. Micro radio licenses should be available at a fairly low, flat fee for purchase by non-commercial community-based groups.

Allowing community-based groups to use radio waves to broadcast information to their local communities would be the best way the FCC could server the public interest. As you know, micro radio stations are fairly inexpensive to set up but other types of communications (e.g. print ads, billboards, TV spots, staffed telephones, paper mailings) are prohibitively expensive for small, local organizations. Community-based groups do a lot of good in local communities but need better and less expensive ways to communicate with the users of their services.

The FCC can help promote democracy and strengthen local communities by legalizing micro radio stations, making the licenses within financial reach of small local groups, and requiring that the licenses can only be purchases by members of the local community.

Sincerely,

Beth Williams

Beth Williams

Friday, January , 1999

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Quresh Latif
2400 Poleline Rd. #90
Davis

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman William Kennard
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals

I strongly urge you to legalize low power broadcasting.

When our Constitution was signed, there was nothing comparable to today's media, but there was an understanding that accumulation of power was a matter to be taken very seriously. Concentrated media is a threat to free speech, free press, and free elections. Who owns the media, controls the agenda.

In 1992 Ben Bagdikian warned in his book, the Media Monopoly that media concentration was a danger, but in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 the Congress removed restrictions on media ownership. (Senator McCain pointed out in a recent interview with Mother Jones that the only interest not represented in that Bill was the public.)

Since the 1996 Telecommunications Bill 'deregulated' the industry, Westinghouse/CBS bought Infinity broadcasting for \$4.9 billion, Time Warner and Turner Broadcasting merged in a \$6.7 billion dollar deal, Nynex bought Bell Atlantic for \$22.1 billion, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp acquired full ownership of New World Communications Group for \$3 billion making it the largest TV station owner with 22 outlets, US West paid \$10.8 billion for control of Continental Cablevision, Gannet acquired Multimedia Entertainment for \$1.7 billion; British Telecommunications bought MCI for \$23 billion, and now, the largest yet, the merger of AT&T and TCI. The trend has accelerated.

You need only look to see that our information streams are now polluted.

Television news has become less and less informative. Pack journalism assures that we will see celebrity trivia, but only distorted or blocked public issues. There was hardly a ripple when the OJ Simpson trial pre-empted the State of the Union Address, no serious public discussion of Healthcare 'reform', no mention of the 1100 economists (including 6 Nobelprize) winners who opposed the balanced budget amendment, only discussion of regressive taxes, little discussion of expensive weapons systems which even the military doesn't want, scant coverage of ordinary workers, but plenty of coverage of President Clinton's affairs. By framing trivial issues large, and omitting real ones, real problems are kept from public view. By omitting certain information, the agenda is tightly controlled.

Not only has media been relieved of public responsibility, and become more concentrated, it has an agenda that only a fool would think is 'liberal'. All four television networks, radio, and newspaper chains are conservative activists. Two of our major networks are owned by major defense/nuclear contractors, a third has verified links to the CIA, and the fourth benefited magnificently from large gifts to Congressmen.

When Americans occupied Japan, they mandated that their media not become

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concentrated, because it would tend to fascism. We should consider again the mandate for ourselves. See Robert McChesney's book, Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy.

In 1989, Brandon Centerwall of the University of Washington, Seattle, established that television leads to violence, particularly in children, and is a public health hazard. . From 1990 to 1994 there was a 22 percent increase in the rate of murder by teens aged 14 to 17. The FBI's most recent juvenile arrest records support this grim prediction: Weapons possession, aggravated assault, robbery, and murder all rose more than 50 percent from 1987 to 1996. James Alan Fox of Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice warns that, without remediation, the juvenile crime rate seems likely to increase. This kind of information is rarely acknowledged in the media.

"An extraterrestrial being, newly arrived on Earth--scrutinizing what we mainly present to our children in television, radio, movies, newspapers, magazines, the comics, and many books -- might easily conclude that we are intent on teaching them murder, rape, cruelty, superstition, credulity, and consumerism. We keep at it, and through constant repetition many of them finally get it. What kind of society could we create if, instead we drummed into them science and a sense of hope." Carl Sagan. The Demon-Haunted World. Random House. 1995

"...Today's children, who watch more television than ever before (an average of 22,000 hours before graduating from high school), according to the Washington Post, also "suffer from an epidemic of attention-deficit disorders, diminished language skills, and poor reading comprehension." The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has discovered a direct link, and there is concern that TV might actually cause learning disorders. "Most [heavy viewing] kids", says psychologist Jerome Singer, "show lower information, lower reading recognition or readiness to reading, [and] lower reading levels." They also "tend to show lower imaginativeness, and less complex language usage". Very recent research in this field suggests that TV might in fact physically stunned the growth of a developing brain." from David Shenk's book, 'Data Smog, surviving the Information Glut'. If television has this powerful affect, there should be some accountability. Surely broadcasters should be held responsible for this crime against our children, as drug dealers are.

But no. For this misuse of existing spectrum, the Congress rewarded broadcasters with magnificent gifts. Although the industry is a health hazard, it was relieved of public responsibility, allowed to draft the Telecommunications Bill of 1996, and rewarded with a massive giveaway of new spectrum. The Telecommunications Act had no detectable consumer benefit, but has made most of us the target of telemarketers, price gouging (not only at pay phones), and no reductions of bills. Wireless phones, which are cheap and ubiquitous in Israel (even small children have them), are major expense items in the US.

As media cheer ever larger mergers, competition has yet to appear anywhere. Since television and other media account for most election expense, they account for a major component of campaign finance, and are the major beneficiaries of election expense. What you will hear about is the need for taxpayers to pay the bill to broadcasters for elections ... not that they have any obligation to the public, or that the public is indeed the ultimate owner of the broadcast spectrum. With the powerful media that we have today, elections may never again have real meaning.

Considering the small number of entities involved, communication can easily be brought under control of the national security state. Even the potential for that kind of control should trigger Anti-Trust action. But no. People have been robbed of much of the benefit of communication technology, advertisers may exploit and propagandize them, and broadcasters under no public responsibility.

Concentrated wealth and concentrated media are inherently authoritarian. Free speech and free elections may be an illusion from the past. Any hope of restoring true democracy, and with it a better breed of politicians, depends largely on stopping welfare to broadcasters, cleaning up our polluted information streams, and creating a better informed electorate.

Instead of concentrating information sources, we should decentralize them. Instead of making election messages expensive, we should make them free. Instead of exclusively corporate voices, we need someone to represent the public. Rather than shutting down low power broadcasters, we should encourage them.

Legalization of low power broadcasting could help to preserve democracy in the US.

Sincerely,

Ouresh Latif

From: Anita Wallgren
To: Magalie Salas
Date: Thu, Apr 8, 1999 3:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: Comments to Commissioner Ness

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For inclusion in Docket MM 99-25. Thanks.

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From: Steven Stwalley <monkey23@scc.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(NETMSGGS)
Date: Fri, Apr 2, 1999 12:44 AM
Subject: Comments to Commissioner Ness

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APR 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Steven Stwalley (monkey23@scc.net) writes:

Re: NPRM # FCC 99-6, MM Docket # 99-25 & #95-25:

I urge you to adopt rules for licensing Low Power FM radio that prioritize the needs of under-served and under-financed communities. Your office has the power and the mandate to ensure that ordinary people can claim a piece of the pie that big corporations have dominated and controlled for years. I am confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, I urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. There should be completely non-commercial service. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate to the constituents and their neighbors, not to make a profit.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. NO secondary status should be allowed.
5. Microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines should receive amnesty, have their property returned, and be prioritized for new licenses.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be included in the future of digital radio.
8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of these vital issues.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 209.32.143.85
Remote IP address: 209.32.143.85